

REMARKS

Applicants provisionally elect claims 1-5, with traverse.

As the Examiner has stated, this application is subject to the PCT Rules 13.1 to 13.4 (unity of invention). 1893.03(d) states: "When making a lack of unity of invention requirement, the examiner must (1) list the different groups of claims and (2) explain why each group lacks unity with each other group (i.e., why there is no single general inventive concept) specifically describing the unique special technical feature in each group." In this case, the Examiner asserts that while Groups I-IV all share the same corresponding "special technical feature" in that each group requires the addition of a property changing component to a polymer material, the special technical feature does not make a contribution over the prior art. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Yamazaki et al. (US 5,776,596) describes a magnetic recording medium that comprises a polymer matrix, magnetic particles, and a lubricant that is equivalent to the property changing component. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The special technical feature is a polymer material comprising a property changing component. Yamazaki describes a magnetic recording medium that has a non-magnetic substrate, an intermediate layer provided on the non-magnetic substrate and a magnetic layer provided on the intermediate layer and the magnetic layer contains a lubricant. Yamazaki does not disclose a polymer material comprising a property changing component, like a lubricant or magnetic particles for example. Yamazaki discloses the lubricant in an additional top layer of the substrate and this top layer is not disclosed as being made of polymer material. When the lubricant is added to the polymer material of the substrate, there is no need to cover the substrate with additional layers. Accordingly, the claimed special technical feature does make a contribution over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and also requests that the Examiner withdraw the election requirement.

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If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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